

from its host and then subsequently to identify it. Also to Mark Yeates for being so much more computer-literate than I and for the MapMate mapping program used here.— KEITH BROWN, The Barn House, Cheriton Hill, North Cheriton, Templecombe, Somerset BA8 0AB.

### **Colonisation by *Cacyreus marshalli* (Butler) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) of a site in south-west France**

The year 2000 promised to be something special here in the remote village of Graddé, when the usual five February butterflies here had been observed by the end of January (Peacock *Inachis io* (L.), Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros* (L.), Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* (L.), Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria aegeria* (L.) and Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* (L.)). Our house stands at the open end of a small valley, about three kilometres in length, with the ancient Forêt de Grésigne on one side and partially scrubbed garrigue hillside on the other. The valley floor is a small grassy plain, about 150 metres wide and with a small stream running along its length. The valley end opens out into vine-covered limestone hills.

On 24 April 2000, the Moroccan Orange-tip *Anthocharis belia euphenoides* (Stdgr.) put in an appearance – a new species for this area, although it is quite common further east. The year progressed with the same number of species as in earlier years – but in far greater numbers. In high summer, with temperatures around 30°C, we had Long-tailed Blues *Lampides boeticus* (L.) appear on 15 August and it was whilst watching these on 19 August that I noticed a small, long-tailed butterfly, bronze-brown in colour and with a very noticeable chequered border. This was fairly rapidly identified as the Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli*.

In the following days, numbers of this butterfly increased rapidly and a voucher specimen was collected. Although the butterflies settled on most plants, they clearly were actively seeking out our potted *Geranium* and *Pelargonium* plants and, after a few weeks, we observed many small, green larvae on these plants. By now we had also seen the adults in quantity (40+) in the flower beds surrounding the car park at the Palais de Justice complex in Albi, about 30 kilometres from our garden, but by the middle of September they had disappeared. Adults re-appeared in the first week of October and remained in the garden in reasonable numbers (25+) until 25 October, suggesting that there was a second generation of adults one month after the arrival of the primary immigrants.

It was with some impatience that we awaited the 2001 season. On 12 August in that year, a week earlier than during 2000, we observed a few adults and again within a few days there were more (30+) in the garden. Adults were seen every day up to 9 September and then vanished until reappearance on 7 October, with the final sighting of the year on 3 November – giving some indication of the weather conditions that we experienced. Once again, a visit to Albi (the administrative centre of the Département du Tarn) showed the species to be present in the city centre – albeit at a different site; a small car park had the bush *Caryopteris clandonensis* planted around the borders and we were surprised to see over one hundred males and females covering the

flowers. Even the "passer-by" shoppers were stopping to watch this phenomenon. At our local large town of Gaillac (population 10,500) *C. marshalli* was seen at a garden centre; however, it has travelled up the valley from Graddé (population 10) where it is established on wild *Geranium* spp. in our meadow about one kilometre up the lane from the garden. The species is native to extreme southern Africa. It was recorded for the first time in Europe from Palma, Mallorca in November 1989 (Eitschberger & Stamer, 1990. *Atalanta* **21**: 101-108) and was assumed to be an establishment resulting from initial introduction. It was also noted on Mallorca [as Majorca] the next year, 1990 (Rayner, 1990. *Ent. Rec.* **102**: 250). The following year it was reported from Belgium (Troukens, 1991. *Phegea* **19**: 129-131). According to Leraut (1997. *Liste Systématique et Synonymique des Lépidoptères de France, Belgique et Corse* 2nd edition), after having been first seen on Mallorca it has spread to mainland Spain and Italy; unpublished records to support this statement exists on the Internet as a photograph taken in Rome by P. Mazzei during 1996, and another taken by A. Torry at Gerona, Catalonia [Spain] in 1997. The year 1997 also saw the first "wild caught" adult in Britain (at Lewes, East Sussex by John Holloway (*Atropos* number 4, 3-6) although it doubtless originated from an introduction of larvae on imported plants. Shaw (2001. *Ent. Rec.* **113**: 262) considered that his observation of the species in Corsica on 4 August 2001 appeared to be the first record of the butterfly there. White (1998. *Ent. Rec.* **110**: 297) records *C. marshalli* as new to Portugal from the Algarve in May 1998 and White (2000. *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 179) notes that the butterfly was present on Granada as early as 1995. Foster (2000. *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 271) records it as new to Lanzarote in 2000. The early spread in Europe is documented by Sarto I Monteys (1992. *J. Res. Lep.* **31**: 24-34), whilst a more accessible summary (to British readers) was given by Honey (1993. *Butt. Cons. News.* **53**: 18-19).

Larsen (2000. *Ent. Rec.* **112**:273-275) is of the opinion that the presence of the species in Spain and Southern France is the result of a "long range introduction", noting that it has even been found in Belgium and the UK, where it would probably be unable to survive on a permanent basis. Whilst migration from the extreme southern tip of Africa to Europe is unlikely, the evidence from Graddé and elsewhere may suggest that current waves are the result of phenomenal expansions of the new range of a species now established, and quite able to thrive on both wild and "domesticated" *Pelargonium* and *Geranium* species where available in conjunction with suitable climatic conditions.

However, the year 2002 will be a severe test. For the first time in ten years the winter temperature here has been maintained at a level below zero for a continuous month (lowest -12°C), although by the end of January 2002 we had, again, already seen the "February Five". We hope that the cycle will be completed again in August! – MICHAEL MARNEY, Graddé, 81140 Campagnac, France (E-mail: michael.marney@wanadoo.fr).

### ***Gelechia cuneatella* Douglas (Lep.: Gelechiidae), new to Lancashire**

On the night of 29 July 2001, Mr Kevin McCabe came across a gelechiid moth with which he was unfamiliar in his m.v. trap in Flixton, Greater Manchester (VC 59). He kindly passed it on to me for closer examination. Having set the moth, which was